GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories

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Underwater Egg Hunt, p.12

VOL. 89, No. 20 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | APRIL 9, 2026

Beltway Plaza Redevelopment Six-year Extension Approved

by Laura Charleston

PHOTO COURTESY BELTWAY PLAZA MANAGEMENT

This site plan for Beltway Plaza's redevelopment was presented in 2021.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Prince George's County Planning Board has accepted Quantum Companies' six-year extension for the redevelopment of Beltway Plaza, citing financing challenges tied to high interest rates and shifting economic conditions.

The redevelopment of Beltway Plaza, which originally opened in 1963, has been discussed for nearly 30 years, according to Kenny Wine, vice president of operations at Quantum Companies, the property owner of Beltway Plaza.

Phased Project

Plans call for a phased, mixed-use project that would add 2,500 residential units and 700,000 square feet of commercial space, including community amenities, while preserving most of the existing mall.

See **BELTWAY PLAZA**, page 8

From Pockets of Excellence: PGCPS' Vision and Budget

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph has had to cut $150 million from the budget. In fall budget discussions, he pledged to keep those cuts as far from the classroom as possible. Joseph's budget, which was presented in January, despite requirements it be shared earlier (see the February 12 News Review) is only a proposal until a final board vote and adoption by the county. Along with his proposed budget, Joseph's Budget Equity Plan, presented in February, aims to address variance within the district. In his 100-day message in the fall Joseph said, "Variance shows up in opportunity, access and expectations, where a child's experience can depend too much on their school, their zip code or the adults around them." The budget "is a strategic tool to move the district from isolated pockets of success to systemic opportunity for all," said a February press release. Joseph's equity presentation offers three existing pockets: magnet, immersion, and International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs. "These programs are strong, but they do not serve most students," states the slide entitled "What We Built." The News Review interviewed Joseph to ask about his vision for moving the county's schools "from pockets of excellence to excellence at scale" and what that means for specialty programs.

PHOTO BY RANDY CHOW

The main entrance of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, which is home to one of the county's three Science and Tech magnet programs

Budget Cuts

Program cuts in the proposed budget for next school year already include eliminating boundary, middle and high school language immersion (though

See **PGCPS**, page 6

Consultants Report to Council On Current State Legislation

by Carol Griffith

On March 25, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with the two city contractors who monitor state and county legislation for the city's information and possible action. The worksession was timed to coincide with crossover day, the point in the legislative session (approximately the 69th day) in which proposed bills cross from one chamber to the other, indicating a bill's progress toward enactment. All councilmembers attended as contractors Darrell Carrington of Carrington Associates and James Tarlow of LA Perez Consulting presented.

State Bills of Interest

Mayor Emmett Jordan began the session by asking Carrington which, if any, of the proposed state bills required council attention. Carrington noted that coordination between city and county has already begun by City Manager Josué Salmerón for House Bill 34/Senate Bill 189 (HB 34, SB 189), requiring municipalities to improve open drainage and inlet sites. Carrington told council that grant funding to aid municipalities in completing required work was available, but did not offer details.

Carrington informed council that he is especially monitoring other bills for recommended council action. One bill, HB 0172, expanding requirements on body-worn cameras, would have "fiscal impacts" if enacted, according to Carrington. There may be requirements for enforcement, equipment purchases and data retention in the bill. Proposed legislation modifying funding for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (HB 386, SB 281), increasing resources for dementia and other brain health disorders (HB 446, SB 555) and consumer data privacy (HB 711, SB 504) is being closely monitored, Carrington said.

A proposed bill concerning correctional services and

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, April 13
7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, April 15
7:30 p.m. Budget Worksession: Public Works/Capital Projects, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Children pose with the Easter Bunny at Greenbelt's annual egg hunt.
See more photos, page 12.

Election 2026

Maryland House of Delegates District 22 Election Preview

by Stephen Lotz

Four candidates, all Democrats, are running for three available spots in the 2026 Maryland House of Delegates District 22 election. Two current delegates, Anne Healey and Nicole Williams, are not seeking reelection. Ashanti Martinez is the only incumbent on the ballot.

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Ashanti Martinez

Ashanti Martinez

Candidate Statement:

"I'm running for re-election to continue fighting for what matters most to Maryland families: strong public schools, affordable healthcare and real economic opportunity. As State Delegate and House Majority Whip, I've focused on policies that improve daily life like lowering barriers to care, supporting working families and investing in safer, healthier communities. I believe government should expand opportunity and protect people's dignity. That means fully funding public education, strengthening our workforce, addressing housing affordability and making smart, responsible investments that move our state forward. I'm proud to represent District 22 and remain committed to showing up, listening and delivering results. This work is about building a Maryland where everyone, regardless of background, has a fair shot to succeed."

Candidate Biography:

Martinez, 29, of New Carrollton, is a Maryland state delegate and House majority whip. He attended Parkdale High School and Howard University. Martinez has worked as an aide to the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, political director for a congressional campaign, a constituent aide in Prince George's County government and a policy analyst at CASA. He also served as chief of staff to a county councilmember before being elected to the House of Delegates.

Tracy Gant

Gant did not provide a candidate statement to the Greenbelt News Review.

Candidate Biography:

Gant is mayor of Edmonston and has served in local government since 1992, when she was

See **ELECTION**, page 11

Letters to the Editor

Springhill Lake School Enrollment an Issue

I write in reaction to the recent article published on March 19, 2026, entitled, Springhill Lake School Plans Shared at Town Hall Meeting. I commend Ms. Charleston for providing an informative summary of the meeting. However, it appears that the meeting may not have included a discussion of school enrollment data vis-a-vis the plans for the new school construction. You see, at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, Springhill Lake had 803 students enrolled in a school building that has capacity for 605 students (more than 30 percent oversubscribed). The new school design, as presented to the Advisory Planning Board on January 7, 2026, indicates a projected capacity of 850 students, which exceeds current enrollment by only about 5 percent. Given the anticipated construction of three multifamily residential buildings (approximately 750 units total) at Beltway Plaza, it seems likely that the new school capacity could be exceeded before or soon after its doors are opened.

To avoid such oversights in the future, PGCPS must engage community stakeholders in discussions about community schools before the design stage. One assumes they would have quickly discovered that the plans were inadequate for near-term enrollment. We can only hope that PGCPS has already gotten this feedback and is acting upon it as we speak.

Ben Friedman, Chair
Advisory Planning Board

Thank You

To the neighbors, classmates, teammates, co-workers and friends who attended the memorial service for my brother Chris Dwyer on March 27, our family is deeply grateful. More than 100 attended and shared stories and memories of Chris in happy and healthy times. The family was touched and deeply moved by your presence. As my dearest and longest Greenbelt friends reminded me, "Greenbelt shows up for its own."

See **LETTERS**, page 4

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Fantasy Life

An anxious law school dropout (Matthew Shear) stumbles into a job babysitting his psychiatrist's three granddaughters and falls for the girls' mother (Amanda Peet), an actress in a rocky marriage. This is a smart, New York-set romantic comedy co-starring Alessandro Nivola, Judd Hirsch, Bob Balaban, Andrea Martin, Zosia Mamet and Holland Taylor and is winner of the SXSW Narrative Feature Audience Award.

The Drama

A happily engaged couple (Zendaya and Robert Pattinson) is put to the test when an unexpected turn sends their wedding week off the rails.

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

In this 2026 animated adventure comedy Mario, Luigi and Princess Peach embark on an adventure across the galaxy. Based on the 2007 video game Super Mario Galaxy and its 2010 sequel, as well as Nintendo's broader Mario franchise, the film was produced by Illumination and Nintendo and is the sequel to The Super Mario Bros. Movie.

Pretty in Pink

Andie is an outcast at her Chicago high school, hanging out either with her older boss, who owns the record store where she works, or her best friend Ducky, another outsider. When one of the rich and popular kids at school, Blane, asks Andie out, it seems too good to be true. As Andie starts falling for Blane, she begins to realize that dating someone from a different social sphere is not easy.

Christmas in July

In this screwball comedy, an office clerk loves entering contests in the hopes of someday winning a fortune and marrying the girl he loves. His latest attempt is the Maxford House Coffee Slogan Contest. As a joke, some of his co-workers put together a fake telegram which says that he won the $25,000 grand prize. As a result, he gets a promotion, buys presents for all of his family and friends and proposes to his girl. When the truth comes out, he's not prepared for the consequences.

Without Bias

From legend to tragedy: the name of former University of Maryland basketball superstar and Boston Celtics draft pick Len Bias still provokes powerful and immediate responses almost 40 years after his death.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
APRIL 10th - 16th

Fantasy Life (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (91 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, Sat. 7:25 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC)
Tue. 3:30 PM, Thurs. 4:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 2:35 PM, 7:40 PM
Wed. 7:35 PM

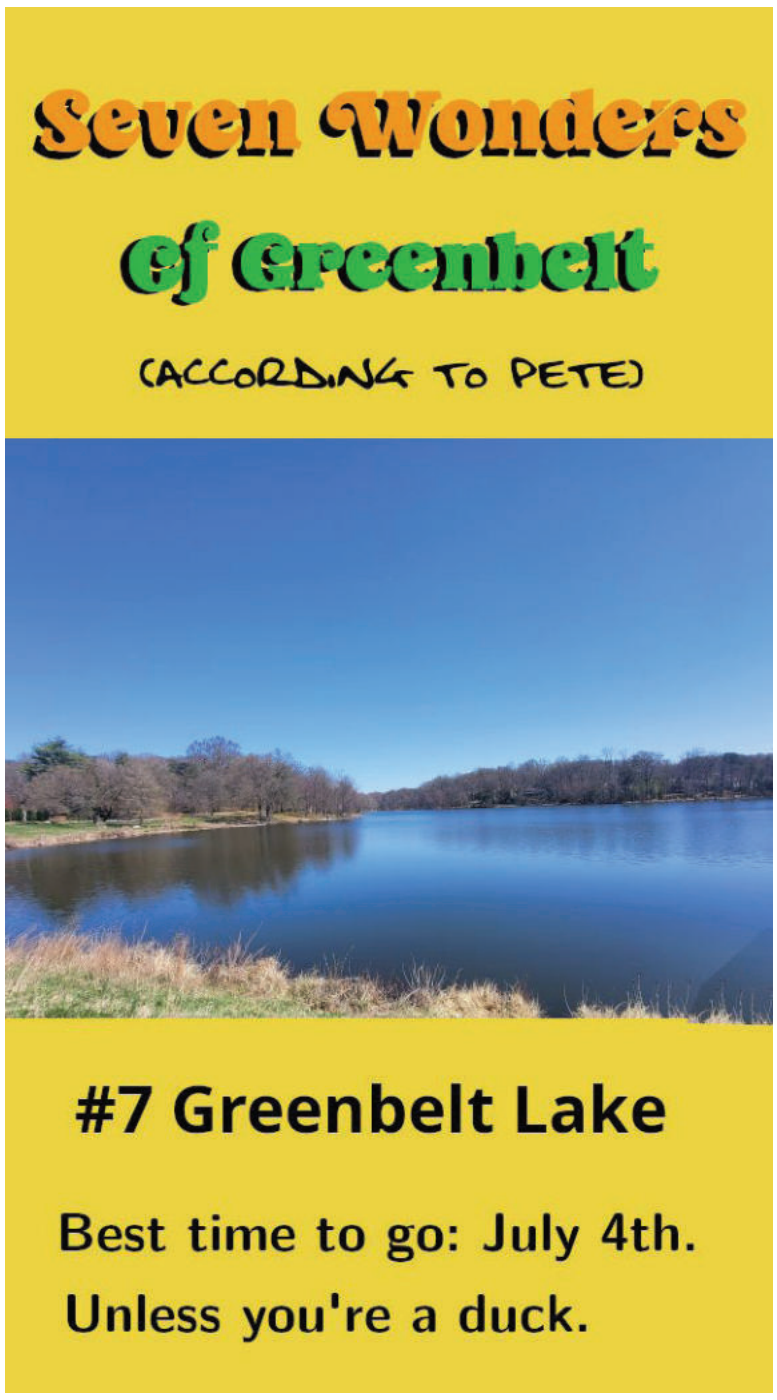
The Drama (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (105 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:45 PM, Sun. 5:20 PM
Mon. 4:50 PM, Wed. 7:20 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM, Sat. 7:40 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM, Tue. 7:20 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
(PG) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (96 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM, Sun. 2:50 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:30 PM, Sat. 2:45 PM
Sun. 4:55 PM, Mon. 4:35 PM
Tue. 5:00 PM, Thurs. 5:00 PM

Pretty in Pink
(PG-13) (1986) (96 mins)
Cult Classic sponsored by board member Stacia Woycheck
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 2:30 PM
Sun. 8:00 PM

Christmas in July
(NR) (1940) (68 mins)
Film in Focus - event pricing
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 7:00 PM

Without Bias
(NR) (2009) (52 mins)
Free - no ticket required
In partnership with
UMD College Park
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:00 PM



- Cartoon by Pete Reppert

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Phone: 301-345-5800; Biblio Consulta: 301-358-6862 (new number).

Storytimes

Friday, April 10, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15970628.

Wednesday, April 15, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15970055.

Thursday, April 16, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15970274.

Ride and Read

Thursday, April 16, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy, and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15951785.

Apply for a Passport

The Greenbelt Library, along with five other branches (Accokeek, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, New Carrollton and Oxon Hill), serves as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment up to 30 days in advance by calling the Library at 301-345-5800 or visiting pgcmls.info/passport-services.

Playground Plogging: Safe & Sparkly Spaces

Looking for a fun Earth Day activity? Try plogging, or picking up litter while jogging. Odd as it may sound, the new "sport" is becoming extremely popular with runners worldwide, many of whom are posting images of themselves and friends holding bags of trash on social media.

On Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) initiative, will be cleaning up around the many city playgrounds in all of Greenbelt, making them safe and sparkly.

Those interested should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com and let him know where they'll be plogging, or ask where ploggers are needed, so as to coordinate efforts and spread the wealth of engagement.

April 9: Adventure Awaits and I Must Go

The Greenbelt Rotary Club will host Hannah Baker, vice president of Venture Crew 746. She will present a retrospective of the Crew's recent adventures and preview the 100-mile canoe adventure planned for this summer. This event is a must-see for anyone aged 14 to 20 interested in outdoor skills and challenges. The event is Thursday, April 9 at the Community Center, Room 114, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. talk. Scouting America Venture Crew 746 is an organization for all 14- to 20-year-old youth that teaches leadership, service, teamwork and resilience through adventurous outdoor activities, including canoeing, backpacking, climbing and more. The Greenbelt Rotary Club meets every Thursday at the Greenway Center IHOP at 8 a.m., except the second Thursday of the month when club members host this evening speaker series.

Goddard's MAD Theater Presents Comedy

Goddard's MAD Theater presents Ken Ludwig's comedy Moon Over Buffalo from April 10 to 25 at the Barney & Bea Recreation Center on Good Luck Road. The play is directed by Randy Barth and produced by Greenbelter Susan Breon. Each show will begin with a musical cabaret entitled Wrong Turn, Right Song, immediately followed by the play. Visit madtheater.org for more information and tickets, which must be purchased in advance.

The play is a comedy about a husband-and-wife acting duo, George (played by Greenbelter Jon Gardner) and Charlotte Hay, who are performing in repertory in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1953. Their careers are on the brink of disaster when they learn that famous film director Frank Capra might be coming to see their show, giving them a potential last chance at Hollywood stardom. However, everything that can go wrong does go wrong. With slamming doors, mistaken identities and costume malfunctions, this hilarious play has all of the classic elements of a farce. Parental guidance suggested: some material may not be suitable for children.

More Community Events throughout the paper.

A Life in Tandem

On Thursday, April 23, A Life in Tandem will be playing at the Greenbelt Cinema. This movie is sponsored by the Keystone State Ride (KSR) which raises funds for cancer research. KSR has raised over $80K for cancer research in their first two years. The group was founded by Dave Wellborn whose family has lived in Greenbelt for many years. Dave is also a cancer survivor and has worked with the director to bring this film to Greenbelt. Come out to support this important fundraiser to end cancer. Learn more at KeystoneStateRide.com.

PHOTO COURTESY DAVE WELLBORN

Dave Wellborn advertises the movie.

Greenbelt Chess Club April Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on the Tuesdays of April 14, April 21 and April 28. The meetings are held at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Democratic Club Candidate Forum

The Roosevelt Democratic Club invites the community to a Candidates Forum on Sunday, April 19 for Maryland's Fourth Congressional District. Come hear directly from the candidates, learn about their priorities and ask the questions that matter most – all before Election Day. The meeting starts at 2 p.m. in the Greenbriar community building.

Garden Tour Seeks Gardeners

The Greenbelt Rotary Club is hosting its first Greenbelt Garden Tour on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tour is a fundraiser for Rotary community activities. Five gardeners have already committed to participating, and the club is seeking more, especially in Greenbelt East and West. The club plans to include 5-10 home gardens and community garden plots, both ornamental and food gardens, and will select gardens for a variety of content and location. Gardeners in Greenbelt East, Center or West should respond at https://tinyurl.com/2wu6wuzc. The club is also seeking sponsors at https://tinyurl.com/hk8azyux. To learn more about the tour and Greenbelt Rotary's community service activities, see https://tinyurl.com/ucyf2n7a.

Art Studio Open House & Sale

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program will host an Art Studio Open House and Sale on Sunday, May 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Tour the studios of the center's eight artists in residence and mingle with Greenbelt Recreation arts instructors; several artists will have work available for purchase. Visit the art gallery and participate in free hands-on activities for all ages. See details as they are announced at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

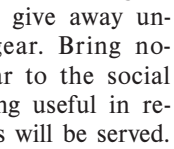
Health Foods Make Cents, Fight Diabetes

Did you know that people who eat plant-based meals are less likely to ever develop diabetes, and if you have diabetes, plant-based meals can help to improve blood sugar levels and prevent complications?

Come Wednesday, April 15, 6 to 8 p.m. to the Community Center Dining Room to learn to make and taste some simple, budget-friendly diabetes-fighting recipes. Program free, donations accepted.

Eyes on Earth at GSFC Activities for Children

Activities and demonstrations for children ages 3 to 5 will be held on Thursday, April 16 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center during a special morning hour before they open to the public. Registration is required for each child participant. At least one parent or guardian must be on site for the entire program. Registration information can be found at eventbrite.com/cc/nasa-goddard-visitor-center-3091729. The GSFC Visitor Center is at 9432 Greenbelt Road.



Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

The following is the schedule for the remaining meetings in April.

April 15, Anniversary Luncheon, Holiday Inn, College Park

April 22, Spring Ticket Auction. Bring small bills to bid.

April 29, Bingo

GHI Bike Committee Hosts Spring Social

The GHI Bicycle Committee will sponsor a Spring Social for Saturday, April 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the board room of the GHI Building, 1 Hamilton Place.

Members of the Greenbelt City Council will take part in a panel discussion on bicycle infrastructure in Greenbelt. The forum, including questions from the audience, will focus on recent infrastructure improvements, such as the bicycle repair stations, and outline future infrastructure plans.

Following the forum, participants will have the usual gear swap to trade or give away unwanted bicycle gear. Bring no-longer-needed gear to the social and find something useful in return. Refreshments will be served.

MAD NASA's MAD Theater Presents:

KEN LUDWIG'S Moon Over Buffalo

A comedy directed by Randy Barth and produced by Susan Breon

www.madtheater.org

3 weekends: April 10 - 25

Tickets: $22/$20/$12

Barney & Bea Rec Center, Good Luck Rd.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!

* * * RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 * * *

TH 4/09	FRI 4/10	SAT 4/11	SUN 4/12
Reggie Right Eye & The Missing Pieces 7 - 9pm Blues, rock, & rockabilly from top DMV musicians	The Sandra Dean Band 8 - 11pm Fresh interpretations of classic rock, blues and soul	POETRY OPEN MIC, 11am - 1pm COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE w/ KATY GAUGHAN, 3:30 - 5pm The Goodfellas 8 - 11pm A Beatles tribute band from the DC area that serves up a sizable repertoire	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12noon THIS MACHINE: A PROTEST SONG OPEN MIC, 12:30 - 4pm That 80's Synth Pop Band 6 - 8pm High-energy 80's music. NDC DEBUT!

MON 4/13	TUES 4/14	WED 4/15	TH 4/16	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7 - 9:30pm W/ MIKE SCOTT & FRIENDS	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Test your knowledge on topics from aardvarks to zymurgy	BACK ROOM CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT, 11a - 2pm Classic Jam with the Low Rent Quartet 7 - 9pm Blues-leaning music	IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

From Mary Lou's Garden

Virginia bluebells, a native plant

Looking up through the flowers of magnolia "butterflies"

- Photos by Ditte McInnes

Jackie Magness Funeral April 17

A funeral Mass will be held for Jackie Magness (obituary in the February 12 issue) on Friday, April 17 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 19th Street South, Arlington, Va.

The funeral will be livestreamed on the church website at ourladyqueenofpeace.org. Click on either the YouTube or Facebook icon to view the livestream; an account is not needed for either platform. The livestream starts a few minutes before the Mass time and will have Jackie Magness listed as the title. A reception will follow at the same location. Jackie's remains will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery alongside her late husband at a date yet to be determined.

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Jackie Magness

Poetry in The Garden

The public is invited to join our meeting on Sunday, April 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse at Schrom Hills Park. Light refreshments will be served.

Read a favorite poem, listen to others or make comments relevant to the poem. All ages and backgrounds are welcome.

GHI Special Member Meeting:

Proposed Purchase of 121 Centerway

Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.
Youth Center Gymnasium
99 Centerway, Greenbelt

Museum Hosts Welcome Spring

Greenbelt Museum will hold its annual spring open house and Welcome Spring event on Sunday, April 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy free house tours and see a demonstration victory garden being planted. Children will be able to plant a seedling to take home. The Museum is at 10 A and B Crescent Road. More information can be found at greenbeltmuseum.org.

City Notes

Spring camps and activities offered by Recreation included two annual egg hunts and, at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, a five-day basketball clinic and a community soccer game with Greenbelt Police.

Parks/Ballfields repaired the skate park fence and installed wood fiber chips in the dog park. Streets removed a concrete pad at Braden Field and installed a camera at Schrom Hills Park. Facilities Maintenance installed chiller pipes on the Community Center roof and replaced a pump at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Recycling/Sustainability attended a national meeting on recycling plastics.

Animal Shelter residents are five cats, five kittens and a dog after three adoptions. Of 117 spay/neuter vouchers issued, 71 have been redeemed. Code Enforcement inspected 14 commercial suites and 15 rentals.

Therapeutic Recreation, Rangers and Information Technology met with seniors for a monthly Tech Café.

During March, CARES counseled 212 clients, mentored 17 aspirants for GED and six for workforce development, tutored 17 school students and 13 ESOL students.

Letters cont'd from p.2

Over the next few days in town, I walked around the lake, where Chris fished and we watched the fireworks as children, saw the Youth Center where Chris spent many hours playing basketball and visited 10-A Crescent where our family lived for more than 60 years. Thank you to Sheila Maffay-Tuthill who allowed me a peek inside the old homestead and shared Greenbelt's plans for the property. There were many memories, my mother's azaleas were starting to bloom and my Dad's handiwork had endured the test of time.

Chris loved Greenbelt, its nature, the Blues Festival, ballfields, the Labor Day Festival and playgrounds. Of his 65 too-short years, he lived there over 50 of them. In his way Chris needed Greenbelt, its loyalty, its reliability, its forgiveness, its reliance, its space and simple beauty.

Thank you Greenbelt for showing up for one of your own.

Diane Dwyer Terrett

New Deal Heritage Center Not Needed

In reference to Frank Gervasi's proposal to have the Armory house a New Deal heritage site, while laudable, cost concerns along with other proposed city uses for the Armory make this proposal unnecessary and duplicative.

Greenbelt has a museum highlighting the Roosevelts and the New Deal era. Over the past decade it has doubled in size and programming. There are numerous 1930s structures, sculpture and architectural elements throughout the city from the New Deal era, as well as a number of informative plaques.

Anniversary books have been published and the various local cooperatives reference the New Deal era. The Greenbelt News Review periodically publishes articles on events and people from the 1930s and 1940s.

The FDR memorial at the D.C. Tidal Basin pays homage to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as does the museum, visitor center and presidential library in Hyde Park, N.Y., along with the nearby Eleanor Roosevelt home and visitor center. I have visited both. I recall references to the three Greenbelt towns and public housing projects at both sites.

These, along with numerous written and archival materials, show there is no lack of tributes to the New Deal and the Roosevelts.

Robert Snyder

"O SON OF SPIRIT! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting." – Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Living Generously in a World that Holds Back

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
• Sunday Mass:
◦ Sat vigil 5pm*
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
• Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

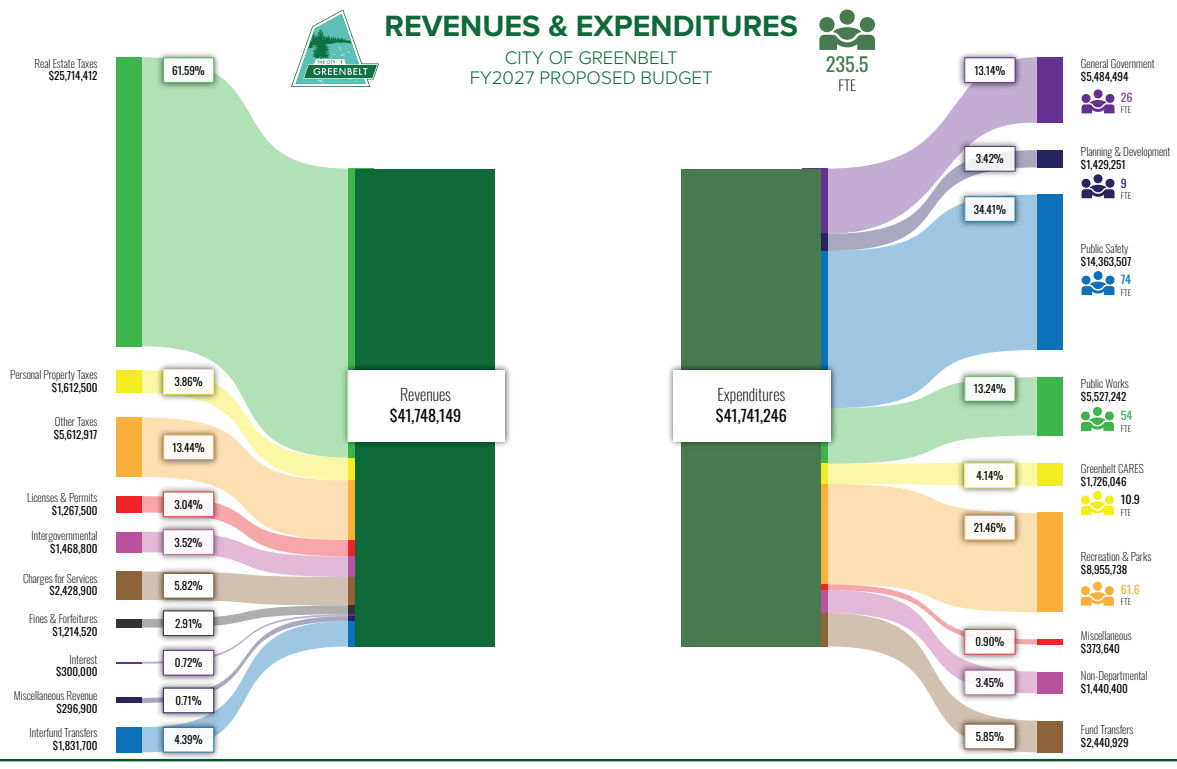
Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
April 12, 2026, at 3 p.m.
Everybody Plays the Fool
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Erin Wiley
In the spirit of our April theme (Thanks) and of April Fool's Day, we'll gratefully explore the experience of looking foolish (i.e. mistakes, missteps, misadventures) as a very necessary component of spiritual growth.
Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



BUDGET WORK SESSION SCHEDULE

The Greenbelt City Council will hold a series of work sessions throughout April and May to review and discuss the FY2027 Proposed Budget with City staff. Community members are encouraged to tune in or attend to learn more about upcoming plans and priorities for our city.

Join us in person at 25 Crescent Road, or virtually via YouTube, the Greenbelt website at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV livestream, Zoom, or on Verizon and Comcast cable channels.

View the full schedule of work session dates below:

- (April 15) Budget Work Session - Public Works and Capital Projects
- (April 20) Budget Work Session - Miscellaneous, Grants & Contributions, CARES, Greenbelt Cinema
- (April 22) Budget Work Session - Recreation
- (April 27) 1st Public Hearing
- (April 29) Budget Work Session - Public Safety
- (May 4) Budget Work Session - Green Ridge House
- (May 6) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 1)
- (May 11) 2nd Public Hearing
- (May 13) Budget Work Session - Recognition Groups (Group 2)
- (May 18) Budget Work Session - Final Budget Review
- (May 26) Budget Adoption

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 13 - 17

Wednesday, April 15 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - *Virtual,*** *On the agenda: Council Liaison Updates, New Business, Old Business, and Staff updates*

Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - PUBLIC WORKS/CAPITAL PROJECTS**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 13 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda
- Committee Reports
-Advisory Planning Board Bylaws Adopted January 7, 2026
- Reappointment to Advisory Board/Committee
- Resignaton from Advisory Board/Committee
- Meetings
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
- Presentations
  * National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week Proclamation
  * Animal Control Appreciation Week Proclamation
  * Arbor Day Proclamation
  * Earth Day Proclamation
  * License Plate Reader Camera (LPRC) Presentation
- Minutes
- Administrative Reports
  * Geospatial Roadmap Plan for Administration
- Public Hearing — Proposed Public Utility Tax Rate of $2.50 for Fiscal Year 2027

LEGISLATION
- A Resolution to Repeal and Reenact with Amendment Resolution Number 2109 to Adopt Standing Rules for the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland
- 2nd Reading and Adoption
- A Resolution of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, Proposing an Amendment to the City Charter to Establish Collective Bargaining Rights for Certain Eligible, Non-Exempt, Non-Managerial and Non-Confidential City Employees
- 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS
- Amended Declaration of Covenants for 7010 Greenbelt Road (Greenbelt Crossing)
- Discussion: Collective Bargaining Ordinance
- Council Referral to the Board of Elections Regarding Ranked Choice Voting
- Council Reports
- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED PUBLIC UTILITY TAX RATE OF $2.50 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027.

This is the first Public Hearing on the proposed Public Utility Tax Rate. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the proposed Public Utility Tax Rate.

Copies of the proposed Public Utility Tax Rate may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed Public Utility Tax Rate is also posted on the City website at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

- Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of Council **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026. The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget. Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

GREENBELT LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 11 from 10 - 11 am

Braden Baseball Fields, 101 Centerway

Join us for the opening day of Greenbelt Little League's 75th season! Come celebrate the milestone with food truck's, raffles, and the parade of teams. Included in the opening day ceremonies will be a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated baseball fields.

EARTH DAY KAYAK CLEANUP

Saturday, April 25 from 10 am - 1 pm

Buddy Attick Lake Park, 555 Crescent Rd

In partnership with Venture Crew 746 and the Greenbelt Rotary Club, volunteers will work with City staff to remove debris from the lake and plant along the shoreline to support a healthier local ecosystem.

Use the QR code to sign up in advance.

SERVSAFE FOOD CERTIFICATION COURSE

(NEW) Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 6-9 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Sharpen your food safety knowledge and earn your ServSafe Certification with this comprehensive, instructor-led course. ServSafe is the leading food safety training and certification program from the National Restaurant Association, offering certification for food service professionals to prevent food-borne illness and meet health regulations.

Class #: 257201-1
Register today via RecTrac, by emailing tgreen@greenbeltmd.gov, or in person at the Greenbelt Community Center.

NEW FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATE FOR APRIL

Thursday, April 23 at 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, GFE

The Monthly Food Distribution is a community resource here for you, your family, your neighbors - everyone! Please don't forget to bring your CAFB card! Don't have one? You can sign-up for a free card sameday and receive food.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

Artist's Studio Space
Apply by 4/17 to the Artist in Residence Program at the Greenbelt Community Center. Monthly rent: $246.11. Info and application: https://bit.ly/4uR1RtO.

April Artful Afternoons
4/12; 1-2pm & 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) 4/19; 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Attract fairies to your spring garden with a ribbon hanging. Sign up here: sugeni.us/entx.

Uke Jam 4/12; 1:30-2:30pm (Greenbelt Community Center) sign-up: sugeni.us/enfB. Join other local players for a strum- and sing-a-long led by Rachel Cross. Free songbooks available now to registered players! Part of an Artful Afternoon.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Art Studio Open House and Sale:** Greenbelt Community Center - Part of the Artful Afternoon on 5/3, 1-4 pm.

Registration required for the following activites. See www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details.

- **Friends & Family Workshop: Microquilting** 4/17; 5:30-7:30pm
- **Fused Glass Jewelry** 4/19; 11am-12:30pm & 12:30-1:30pm

School News

PGCPS continued from page 1

not language immersion programs at K-8 lottery schools), cutting IB programs at the elementary and middle school levels (though continuing the high school program) and discontinuing AVID courses (for college and career readiness in grades 6-12). The rationale for these cuts is under-enrollment and disproportionate costs that serve few students, says Joseph (see the February 5 issue).

However, the budget also cuts funding for staffing at magnet programs, an assistant principal and professional school counselor for the science and technology (S&T) magnet programs at Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Herbert Flowers and Oxon Hill high schools and an assistant principal and counselor for the aerospace magnet program at DuVal High (see the February 19 issue). Entrance to those programs is competitive and capped by the district.

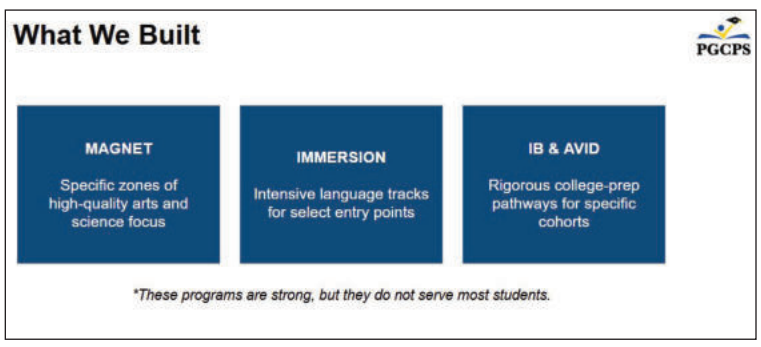
Families are currently selecting programs for their children to enter this fall; some are accepting seats for specialty programs or watching waitlist numbers with anticipation.

"Families should feel confident that [they] are accepted into our specialty programs, including our science and technology program, that they will continue to operate and remain a part of Prince George's County Public Schools offerings," said Joseph. "As all districts facing significant fiscal pressure [we] will continue to monitor enrollment, monitor outcomes and sustainability to ensure programs remain strong and equitable," he told the News Review.

Asked if he felt confident those programs can continue at the caliber that they have been despite the reductions outlined in the budget snapshot, Joseph said, "Absolutely."

ERHS S&T

We also asked Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Principal Portia Barnes about how the cuts to S&T staffing will impact the program there. "Science and Technology students will receive the same support from their grade level team," said Barnes. "Each team has an administrator and two professional school counselors, [so] while the cut has an impact, it does not impact in a manner that prevents the Science and Technology students from receiving the direct support from those positions," Barnes told the News Review. "While it is certainly impactful, the ERHS Science and Technology program has a very strong academic and organizational structure; I feel very confident we will be able to pivot and it will not place our program or students at a deficit," Barnes said. "While we are losing the positions, the program is designed with a Science and Technology Coordinator who is supported by our STEM staff and the entire administration and guidance teams," she explained. This summer, under the proposed budget, S&T programs will also lose the summer bridge program that has traditionally oriented incoming S&T students and helped prepare them for the program. "Summer Bridge is an opportunity for our incoming Science and Technology students to get acclimated to the program expectations and be exposed to lessons, activities and team building. It requires funds for staffing and resources. If we do not have the funds we cannot offer it; however, the ERHS Science and Technology team along with the support of the PGCPS STEM office are brainstorming how to provide some form of engagement," Barnes told the News Review.



GRAPHIC COURTESY PGCPS

A slide from the budget equity presentation of PGCPS Interim Superintendent Shawn Joseph

Redeploying Resources

PGCPS has to look at the current resources they have and figure out how to "redeploy them in a way that allows us to have greater consistency in building capacity," says Joseph. "You have to have high support and high expectations and rigorous curriculum to scale. ... We're in the process of building a new strategic plan that will be out July 1. And when that plan comes out, a big part of that plan is thinking about how we build capacity and what that looks like, particularly in reading and mathematics."

Pockets of Excellence?

We asked Joseph if he sees what he has called "pockets of excellence" and "islands of excellence," as programmatic rather than geographic and if he sees a way to expand successful programs, to admit more students to science and tech models, for example, and how he sees specialty programs and magnet programs fitting into a system that's moving away from "pockets of excellence."

"I think it's important for me to say, I was the principal of one of the highest performing magnet programs in Maryland," replied Joseph, who was principal of Roberto Clemente Middle School in Montgomery County, which he explained had both a mathematics magnet and a humanities and media magnet program. "I was the Maryland State Principal of the Year in 2009 for the approach we took to not only look at the resources that those schools within the schools carry, but how we leveraged their presence to raise the level of quality expectation ... across the entire school there back from those days in 2005 to 2009. So, I believe in magnet education," he says. "I'm very versed with what it takes to really not only run one, but to make sure students are going off and living out their wildest dream. But I believe that we must focus on ensuring all kids in every neighborhood have high quality options. I think we have to use the limited resources that we have to ensure just that."

Prince George's County's magnet schools and specialty programs have origins in attempts at desegregation and equity themselves. They give children opportunities to study at a school outside their geographical boundary, through lottery applications or seats that are offered based on grades rather than parent applications. "I think Prince George's County's magnet history had ... more to do with working with the desegregation policies and things we went through. We're a much different district than we were in the 1980s at this moment. And so ... I think that there's an opportunity to keep the strength of the current specialty programs that are in place, but also work to scale quality in those non-specialty programs. And that's really what I'm focused on."

Scaling Quality

How do you scale quality? "I think you invest in professional development. You invest in technology that helps you focus on consistency and feedback much better. I think you make investments in resources, high quality resources so all kids have access to high quality resources. You look at the ecosystem," he said. "We are an environment that is rich in science and technology and institutions," said Joseph. "We can partner with them. We've got to be competitive to recruit and retain the best teachers."

So, with a focus on reducing variance, does Joseph see magnet schools, immersion and IB in the future of Prince George's County in five years and 10 years? "I do," says Joseph.

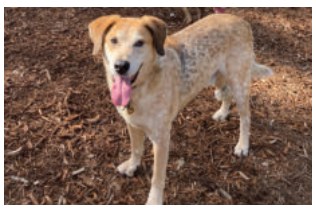
Asked about his equity presentation that advocates a "reversal" from concentrations of excellence and "redistribution" to "excellence at scale," Joseph says, "I wasn't talking about taking anything away. The term [reversal] ... referred to reducing systemwide variance and access and resource allocation, not abandoning the excellent specialty programs we have. And again, under fiscal pressure over time ... excellence can become concentrated in specific programs. And our goal ... the reversal is about interrupting the patterns of inequity by strengthening high quality opportunities more consistently across the district, not eliminating the programs that we currently have."

"I feel good about where we landed," says Joseph of the budget. "I feel like we can continue to grow all of our students, all of our 132,000 students in the district, and be very thoughtful and methodical."

The PGCPS Budget Snapshot can be viewed here: https://tinyurl.com/p9vd7fmb.

The author has children who attend a PGCPS K-8 immersion program not directly impacted by the budget cuts.

IN MEMORIAM: JENKINS



We don't know much about Jenkins' first year, but he found his way from Florence, S.C., to the Washington, D.C., area thanks to an animal rescue service in September, 2009. He lived in Hyattsville with his adopted family for the next 10 years, where he earned a reputation as an escape artist and congenial fellow, connecting his people with many neighbors.

Over time, Jenkins grew into a canine who commanded respect, demonstrating maturity and purpose. Many who met him addressed him as "Mister," "Sir," or "Mr. J."

After the family moved to Greenbelt in 2019, Jenkins explored all the streets and trails of Old Greenbelt, often wanting to find new ways to navigate through the city. He carried an expectation of acceptance through any doorway, frequenting dog-friendly businesses regularly. He loved to go shopping and to hang out with people listening to music or dining. As an elder, Jenkins was a steady presence, gently guiding, inviting us to savor every moment, as he seemed to — well into his 17th year.

He departed from this existence March 13, with his loved ones by his side. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 17 at the family home. Contact Elizabeth Arnold for details.

PGCPS Adds Five Extra Minutes To School Day; Buses Unchanged

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

After spring break, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) returned to a slightly longer school day on Tuesday, April 7. The day will be five minutes longer until the end of the school year on June 18.

The Office of School Support and Leadership worked with IT and transportation to provide guidance to school principals, Senior Public Information Specialist Lynn McCawley told the News Review. "Every school was asked to add five minutes to their bell schedule, either at the start or the end of the day – whichever worked best for their schools – to help meet state-mandated hours for instruction that were lost due to inclement weather."

"Schools will determine how this additional time is scheduled within their daily routines," says the PGCPS website announcement.

There are no changes to school bus schedules with the slightly longer day. That is because there is "a buffer built in that can absorb those five minutes without needing to change route times," says McCawley. Some parents report that their children already routinely miss the start of the instructional day due to the bus schedule, while others arrive within the buffer that McCawley says is in place.

The five minutes a day, along with converting some early dismissals and previous days off to full instruction days, is part of PGCPS' agreement with the state to make up lost time due to inclement weather days. The state already granted county schools a waiver of the requirement of 180 instructional days in the year so that they do not need to hold school past June 18.

The author has two students who attend PGCPS.

School News

New Policy to Protect Students During Immigration Enforcement

by Mary Sies and Chris Stark

The Prince George's County Board of Education has approved a new policy establishing clear protocols for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) staff when interacting with immigration enforcement agents. Adopted March 26, the policy outlines how administrators and staff should respond if immigration enforcement agents are present on school property, with an emphasis on safeguarding students' rights, minimizing disruption and maintaining secure learning environments.

The policy has several important provisions: "The Board does not consent to the conduct of immigration enforcement operations on school property" and designates private spaces (classrooms, school buses and other instructional spaces) where immigration officials may not enter without permission unless they have a judicial warrant or in case of exigent circumstances (emergency situations that constitute an imminent threat to public safety).

The policy designates a PGCPS official from the central office to be "the primary point of contact for issues related to immigration enforcement." The designee will be tasked with developing a communication plan that informs the community about immigration enforcement activities occurring in PGCPS schools and making resources (immigrant students' rights to receive an education, information about protections, and legal and mental health information) available to parents. The superintendent/designee will also oversee staff receiving "professional development addressing the steps that they are required to take if immigration enforcement agents appear on school property, or during extracurricular events," whom to contact at PGCPS and how to document any actions that ensue. Staff can deny immigration enforcement agents access to private spaces in the school, but they may not interfere with or "attempt to conceal any person ... or assist any person in evading the immigration enforcement agent." There are also procedures in cases where agents present a judicial warrant or assert that exigent circumstances exist or where students or staff members are taken into custody as a result of an enforcement action.

District leaders say the policy is designed to ensure schools remain safe, supportive spaces where all students can learn without fear, while providing staff with consistent, legally grounded guidance for handling these situations. "This policy underscores the district's dedication to equity, student protection and compliance with federal and state laws, while providing guidance on safeguarding student information and outlining procedures for school personnel when interacting with immigration authorities," said Board Member Aimee Olivo, vice chair of the Board's Policy and Governance Committee which was instrumental in drafting this policy.

Several representatives from We Are CASA, the immigrant advocacy organization, attended a news conference on Thursday evening in support of the measure. "The new school policy reflects the protective measures urgently needed to ensure that all students, regardless of race, ethnicity or circumstance, feel truly welcome and valued in our school communities. When students feel safe, attendance improves and families are more engaged. PGCPS has demonstrated a clear commitment to our Maryland values and stands as an example to all school systems seeking to establish protective policies that are truly responsive to the authentic needs of their most impacted students during this time of deep fear and anxiety," said Shannon Wilk, director of education at We Are CASA.

Schools may enact a shelter-in-place protocol if immigration enforcement enters or comes within 1,000 feet of school property. Principals have the authority to implement this measure.

ERHS Robotics Club Advances To VEX World Championship

by Praveen Noojipady

PHOTO BY PRAVEEN NOOJIPADY

Squad E, from left: ERHS technology teacher and head coach Karen Bogoski, ERHS students Violet Ridge (junior), Meghana Noojipady (junior and squad lead), Antony Lin (freshman), Loriel Nickel (sophomore) and John Kelly (senior)

Students from the Robotics Club at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), known as Area 53 Robotics, earned top recognition at the Maryland State Robotics Championship on March 15 at the University of Maryland's Ritchie Coliseum.

More than 50 qualifying teams from across Maryland competed in the championship event. Area 53 Robotics had an outstanding showing, with Squads C, D, E and F advancing to the Round of 16. Squads C and D continued their impressive run to the semi-finals, delivering strong performances against some of the top teams in the state.

Squad E earned the prestigious Design Award, which recognizes the team that best documents its engineering design process through a detailed engineering notebook reviewed by a panel of qualified judges. Among the many strong submissions, Squad E's notebook stood out for its thorough documentation, thoughtful design iterations and clear demonstration of engineering problem-solving, ultimately earning the top honor. With this achievement, Squad E advances to the VEX Robotics World Championship, to be held April 21 to 25 in St. Louis.

This accomplishment also marks a milestone for the ERHS Robotics Club, which has now advanced to the world championship three consecutive years, completing a remarkable hat trick of qualifications.

The achievement highlights the dedication, creativity and teamwork of the Area 53 Robotics students, who continue to represent their school and community with excellence.

Praveen Noojipady is a parent and assistant coach for Area 53 Robotics.

Library Parking Lot Work April 14 and 15

Excavation work will begin to prepare for the installation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations in the Greenbelt Library parking lot.

To run the service line to the breaker box, crews will temporarily close the parking lot that serves the Greenbelt Library and Community Center overnight from 10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14 to 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15.

There may be some noise during these hours; residents' patience and understanding is appreciated

Contact 301-474-8000 for more information.

Nugent & Kash OF COMPASS

Andrew and Kim are putting the finishing touches on half a dozen new listings in Greenbelt!

If you are considering a purchase, this is your time! Prices and rates are both stabilizing --while rent continues to rise.

Let us help you to find your home.

Kim Kash &
Andrew Nugent
kim.kash@compass.com
m: 301.789.6294
andrew.nugent@compass.com
m: (301) 814-8010

660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 401 Washington DC 20003 | O: 202.545.6900

Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George's County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 | 202.545.6900

BELTWAY PLAZA continued from page 1

"The plan is to leave the mall untouched for the most part," Wine said.

The project is designed to be built in phases, with construction largely focused on underused areas of the property, including parking lots. Existing businesses are expected to remain open throughout the process.

"We're not going to be evicting anybody, no one," Wine said. "The whole plan is to keep everyone open."

Stalled Progress

Despite early approvals, progress has stalled in recent years due to financial obstacles. Wine said the primary barrier has been securing funding in a difficult economic climate.

"That's the entirety of the obstacle," he said, referring to financing challenges.

According to Wine, a previously lined-up development partner withdrew from the project due to rising costs, forcing the company to restart its search.

The requested six-year extension is intended to address that uncertainty.

"The extension is really just to buy us more time to find someone that can help finance the project," Wine said.

Potential Impacts

For residents and local business owners, the delay raises questions about when the long-anticipated transformation will take shape.

Some merchants remain optimistic about the potential impact. Regina Bethea, owner of Laugh Out Loud (LOL) Stations Mega Fun Center, said the redevelopment could bring new life to the area. LOL came to Greenbelt in 2011 and Bethea had a vision of a family venue where people could come together and make memories. She went on to bring children's theater to the mall (see the September 28, 2023 News Review) and had plans for a childcare facility in the mall. Though Bethea has since decided to retire, she's excited about what the redevelopment will mean for the area.

"It's an amazing concept to be able to have that vacant space in the back parking side to create affordable housing," said Bethea. "I'm hoping it's affordable, but at least to create more housing in the area that's multi-mixed use."

In February, however, the Greenbelt City Council sent a letter to M-NCPPC expressing concern that the new Springhill Lake Elementary School building will not accommodate the estimated 350 additional students projected to live in the 2,500 new units approved in the Beltway Plaza residential construction (see the March 5, 2026 issue).

New Recreation Facility

Plans also include community-oriented features, such as a recreation facility to be created after part of an existing building is removed during later phases of development.

Community member and Chair of the City's Advisory Planning Board Ben Friedman is particularly excited about the recreation possibilities for the Franklin Park area that will be part of the new development. The part of the building that once housed Sports Authority and is currently home to LOL Stations will become a recreation facility for the city, Friedman told the News Review.

Upcoming Upgrades

Bethea suggests that revitalizing the aging shopping center could help retain local spending.

"It's high time that that mall was redeveloped and improved to keep the money in Greenbelt," Bethea said.

In the meantime, Wine says Quantum Companies is continuing to invest in the current mall, including upgrades and new food options to keep the space active.

"We're adding a mini food court with lots of different ethnic foods, which is very exciting," Wine said.

While the extension does not guarantee the project's completion, it preserves the developer's ability to move forward if financial conditions improve.

For now, the future of Beltway Plaza remains in a holding pattern, one that reflects both the ambitions and the challenges of redevelopment in an unpredictable economic climate.

Laura Charleston is a student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

detention facilities (HB 1018, SB 985) may, if enacted, have policy implications but limited direct impact on the city.

Not Moving Further

Several bills of interest which are not moving further through the legislative process include the "bottle bill" (SB 342) as it is opposed by some groups. The Voting Rights Act of 2026 (HB 350, SB 255) did not cross over to the Senate. HB 577, SB 159 SB 334 regarding firearm modifications, a bill about ambulance medical services (HB 779, SB 0439) and related to it, HB 797 about employment discrimination against fire and rescue employees, and HB 1223 about farmers markets and street vending, which could have affected inspection and enforcement, also did not cross over.

Pausing the presentation for questions, Jordan expressed disappointment that the bottle bill is not moving forward, as many residents had expressed strong feelings that it would have a positive effect on the environment. Carrington informed council that in states in which it was law, it had become controversial.

County Legislation

Tarlow began his presentation by reminding council that national issues such as immigration, law enforcement and the environment are influencing local legislation without naming specific bills. He said county council is responding aggressively to immigration enforcement and childcare issues. A resolution to set up a workgroup to streamline development, including changing permitting requirements (CB-014-2026), has passed.

"Quality of life" issues were the basis of new legislation now in committee. One bill would raise fees for liquor stores, storage facilities and tobacco and firearm retailers. Tarlow noted that Prince George's County has the second highest concentration of liquor stores per resident of any municipality [sic] in the country.

A bill that would remove the exemption from site plan review for data centers is in committee, Tarlow reported, from which ensued a council discussion about regulating data centers.

Impact on Greenbelt

Of the legislation he is monitoring, Tarlow said, the recently adopted Prince George's County Council Community Ownership Program Rules and Regulations resolution (CB-005-2026) may impact Greenbelt most by imposing new requirements on communications within homeowner and condominium associations and housing cooperatives.

Jordan asked Tarlow and Carrington for their opinion on how council may have the most impact on legislation affecting Greenbelt, and both said that attending committee and public hearings would be the most beneficial.

In conclusion, Jordan noted that the end of one legislative session leads to the beginning of the next and council needs to remain continuously informed.

Renaissance Concert

Enjoy a free concert at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park on Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. Renaissance ensemble Magdalena presents Voyager: From France to the Mediterranean. Following the life of Madeleine Lartessuti, a legendary Renaissance seafarer, the ensemble will perform sea shanties, folk ballads and Renaissance music. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange, cpae.org.

Bra, Menstrual Products, Diaper Drive in April

The Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) will be on the Co-op Supermarket ramp on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive donations of menstrual products and child diapers as well as new and gently used bras. For more information, email greenbeltARF@gmail.com.

Help Us Help You Help Greenbelt

Greenbelt Community Foundation

Are you a local nonprofit that could use $500–5000 in seed money for a project or endeavor? If so, the Greenbelt Community Foundation is here for you. Our spring grant cycle is going on right now (deadline April 15), and we're looking to give out money to worthy causes. Contact us at greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com or visit https://greenbeltfoundation.org for information on how to apply.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 30 - April 5, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death, two mental health diversions and five domestic incidents, including one involving a weapon and one resulting in an arrest.

On April 1, a woman was bitten by her dog, causing lacerations and bite wounds to her hand, and was taken to the hospital. Animal Control removed the dog.

On April 2, someone who overdosed was administered Narcan and taken to the hospital.

Attempted Armed Robbery

On March 31 at 1:37 p.m. near 426 Ridge Road, a man was approached by a group of juveniles inside his apartment building, and one pulled a gun on him. Officers found the group walking nearby, but the man would not confirm them as the suspects, so they were all free to go.

Assault

On March 30 at 1:42 a.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man was assaulted at the bus stop; his arm appeared broken and he was taken to the hospital. Shortly before the assault, officers saw a group of 10 people waiting for the bus with the man and his friends. Witnesses were uncooperative.

On March 30 at 9:23 p.m. near 167 Westway, an argument between two boys playing basketball turned physical. The father of one of the boys came to the court and suggested violence between the two, and smacked a boy in the face before leaving.

Threats

On March 30 at 12:18 p.m. near 7474 Greenway Center Drive, a recently terminated employee made threats to harm other employees; a woman sent photos indicating she had been physically attacked.

Armed Person

On April 4 at 2:38 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, a man had an argument with a store employee. He double-parked his vehicle, pulled a machete from the trunk, made threats, then fled. Further police action was declined.

DUI

On April 5 at 1:08 a.m., a vehicle sped down Cherrywood Lane, drove recklessly in a parking lot with people walking around, spun its wheels, did burnouts and struck a parked vehicle. The driver was arrested for DUI.

Disorderly

On March 30 at 2:41 p.m. near 7533 Greenbelt Road, a man was visibly intoxicated and refused to leave; he was banned and released.

Theft and Shoplifting

On March 30 at 12:37 p.m. near 7475 Greenbelt Road, someone passed all points of sale with stolen items and fled in a black 2009 Chrysler.

On March 30 at 12:54 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a subject responsible for multiple past thefts was identified; officers will apply for charges.

On March 30 at 1:01 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items; at 2:00 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a retail store reported theft of items; at 2:08 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, loss prevention staff detected theft of several items.

On March 31 at 5:21 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was banned after she stole items.

On April 1 at 11:23 a.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items and fled in a gray Chevy SUV with Florida plates; at 4:09 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole electronics and fled in an SUV.

On April 3 at 8:02 a.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing a camo jacket and orange shirt concealed merchandise and fled; at 2:21 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone stole a pair of sneakers from Foot Locker and fled.

Vandalism

On April 2 near 6218 Greenbelt Road, a dumpster was vandalized under the parking garage; a wall was also painted with white spray paint.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Eight vehicles were stolen: on March 30 near 7732 Hanover Parkway, a vehicle was stolen; on March 31 near 8153 Mandan Terrace, a black Lexus IS350 (Md. 3GM5923); on April 1, near 11 Laurel Hill Road, a blue 2025 Honda CRV (Md. 3CK5562); near 9338 Edmonston Road, a 2025 Honda CRV (Md. 7GP2768); and near 7507 Mandan Road, a 2022 Honda Odyssey (Md. 7EP4319); on April 4 near 7716 Hanover Parkway, a white 2020 Kia (Md. 5GX8922); near 9008 Breezewood Terrace, a blue 2024 Honda Accord (Md. 2GS2024); and near 5805 Cherrywood Lane, a black 2016 Ford Explorer (Md. 4EN9428).

On April 3 near 7824 Hanover Parkway, an F-150 was reported stolen but it had been repossessed.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On March 31 near 9220 Springhill Lane, a patrolling officer found a Hyundai Elantra with window and ignition damage backed into a handicap parking spot with its headlights on; it was impounded.

On April 4 near 7816 Hanover Parkway, Hyattsville Police found a stolen 2017 Chevy SS left in the middle of the roadway with a broken window.

Theft From Auto

On March 31 at 7:47 p.m. near 101 Julian Court, an officer on patrol identified a stolen tag on a suspicious car; the tag was confiscated and citations were issued.

On April 3 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a 2023 Honda Civic had all four wheels stolen; camera footage showed a white pickup truck with two men wearing all black committing the theft. Wheels were also stolen on March 31 near 6227 Springhill Court from a 2026 Honda Civic, and on April 3 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive from a Honda Accord.

Tags were stolen: on March 31 near 7714 Hanover Parkway (Tx. WHT6702), and near 3 Research Road (Md. 1CK3155); on April 1 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane (Md. GN3741); on April 2 near 9111 Edmonston Road (Md. 1GP2538); and on April 5 near 7810 Walker Drive (NY. JEE2438), and near 7810 Walker Drive (Ma. 3YRX73).

On April 2 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a vehicle was broken into.

On April 5 near 161 Westway, a 2016 Chevy Equinox was left unlocked and an iPad was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On March 30 near 7825 Mandan Road, an Infiniti Q50's rear window was broken; near 9149 Springhill Lane, a vehicle had a window smashed and paint keyed.

On April 3 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a Honda was vandalized; near 6164 Springhill Terrace, a 2015 Ford Transit van was vandalized and a nearby 2019 Hyundai Tucson had similar damage; near 6811 Landon Court, four tires were slashed on a 2024 Hyundai Sonata

On April 3 near 6010 Springhill Drive, a Chevy Camaro had a broken window; a wheel lock prevented a possible theft.

On April 4 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a window was broken on a 2021 RAV4.

On April 5 near 6821 Damsel Court, a 2018 Audi Q5 and a 2024 Nissan Rogue were found with tires slashed.

Shooting Near Gates of Cipriano

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Friday, April 3, a shooting took place in the 8500 block of Greenbelt Road, in the area near the Shell station and the Gates of Cipriana apartment complex. According to multiple news sources the victim was a teenaged boy who was taken to hospital in stable condition. The location of the shooting was just outside the City of Greenbelt in Seabrook.

The case falls outside Greenbelt Police Department's jurisdiction and is being investigated by Prince George's County Police Department. No further information was available at press time.

Sunoco Break-in Foiled by Safe

At approximately 4 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, four suspects wearing masks and gloves used a prybar to break into the Sunoco at 161 Centerway.

Once inside, they tried but failed to open a safe. They then fled the Sunoco with approximately 12 cartons of cigarettes. They were travelling in a white SUV.

The Greenbelt Police Department is investigating and asks anyone with information to contact Detective Dylan Davis at 240-542-2134 or ddavis@greenbeltmd.gov, or call the main number at 301-474-7200.

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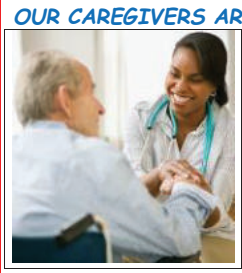
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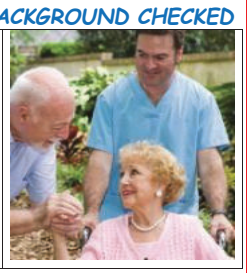
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PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on April 16, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. – closed to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on March 19, 2026
b) Member Matters
c) Legal Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting – open to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on March 19, 2026
b) Statements of Closed Meetings Held on March 31, 2026 and April 2, 2026
c) Presentation of 2025 Audit
d) Fleet Vehicle Electrification Report
e) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 7, 2026

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Classified Advertising

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ANTIQUE OAK VENEER TREADLE SEWING MACHINE – fair condition. Not sure how well it works – haven't tried. Call to leave message or text 301-655-1025.

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YARD/MOVING SALES

MOVING SALE – at 109 Ridge Road Saturday April 11 and Sunday April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some furniture, some collectibles and antiques, art including Japanese woodblock prints, housewares, vintage linens, patio furniture, books, TVs, Orioles memorabilia, handbags, some vintage clothes, costume jewelry, tools and garden equipment, 2008 Honda Metropolitan scooter with less than 200 miles, electric lawnmower... too many items to list out. Have some fun and take advantage of some great stuff at great prices.

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BOXED: $11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches ($17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each $10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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ELECTION continued from page 1

PHOTO COURTESY GANT CAMPAIGN

Tracy Gant

first appointed to the town council. Elected mayor in 2014, she is the first Black woman to hold the position and has been re-elected multiple times. Gant has held leadership roles in the Maryland Municipal League, including serving as its president, and has also led several county and statewide municipal organizations. She is a military veteran and has more than two decades of experience as a property manager.

Craig Hayes

PHOTO COURTESY HAYES CAMPAIGN

Craig Hayes

Candidate Statement:

"I refuse to stand by idly while ICE prepares a massive operation to snatch my neighbors off the streets and send them across the state to an illegal detention center in the county where I was raised. I am running for Delegate because I believe our ongoing constitutional crisis needs a new generation of state leaders who are willing to propose bold policy solutions to not only protect but strengthen our democracy. That is why I support electoral reforms like proportional ranked choice voting and special elections for legislative vacancies so that Maryland voters always have a voice in who represents them. With nearly two decades of experience organizing political campaigns and working directly with elected officials and community leaders, I will be ready on day one to represent the people of District 22 in Annapolis."

Candidate Biography:

Hayes, 35, of Hyattsville, is a political consultant and campaign strategist with nearly two decades of experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Shippensburg University. Hayes worked as a field organizer for Barack Obama's 2008 campaign, a staff assistant for Congressman John Delaney and a campaign manager for a Maryland House delegate race. He currently works as a senior advisor and project manager on local, state and federal political campaigns.

Molly McKee-Seabrook

PHOTO COURTESY MCKEE-SEABROOK CAMPAIGN

Molly McKee-Seabrook

Candidate Statement:

"I'm running for Delegate in District 22 as a third-generation Prince Georgian, mother of three, and public servant who understands the challenges facing working families. For over 14 years, I've worked in Maryland state policy delivering results for families – and as a proud PGCPS parent, I'm deeply invested in strengthening our schools.

My priorities include fully implementing paid leave, tackling the childcare crisis and ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education. I'm committed to improving maternal and reproductive healthcare, making college more affordable and investing in our local economy. I will protect our most vulnerable neighbors and stand up to harmful federal actions that threaten our values and communities. I also believe we must take meaningful action on climate change and I have worked in Annapolis to secure funding for sustainability programs. I'm running to bring practical, compassionate leadership to Annapolis and fight for every family in District 22."

Candidate Bio:

McKee-Seabrook, 38, of Hyattsville, is a state policy professional with more than 14 years of experience in Maryland government. She holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of Maryland and currently serves as associate director of government relations at the University of Maryland. McKee-Seabrook previously worked for six years as chief of staff to Senate President Bill Ferguson and one year as his legislative aide.

Stephen Lotz is a student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

Newly seated District 4 County Councilmember Tim Adams returns to Greenbelt for a town hall listening session and expresses his admiration for the over 88-year "never-missed-an-issue" record of the News Review.

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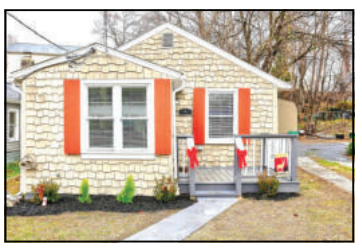
Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

3 Bedroom townhome in Greenbelt. Modern [illegible] to [illegible] appliances. [illegible] laminate flooring on main level, carpet upstairs.
SOLD


Single-family home with 2 bedrooms and 2 remodeled bathrooms. Remodeled kitchen. Large deck in backyard with 2 spacious sheds. No HOA fees!

College Park - Large 3 BR home with spacious [illegible] car garage. 3 levels with oak hardwood flooring. Long driveway included!
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3-br on large corner lot, garage available. Con[illegible] throughout.
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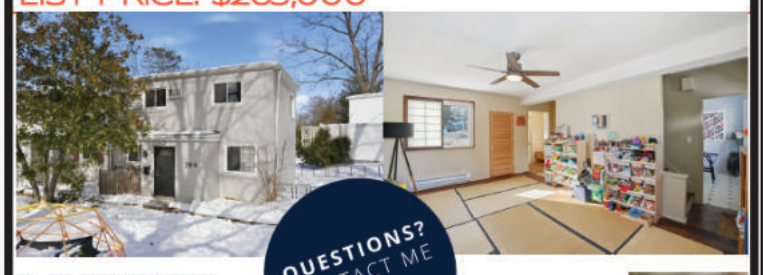
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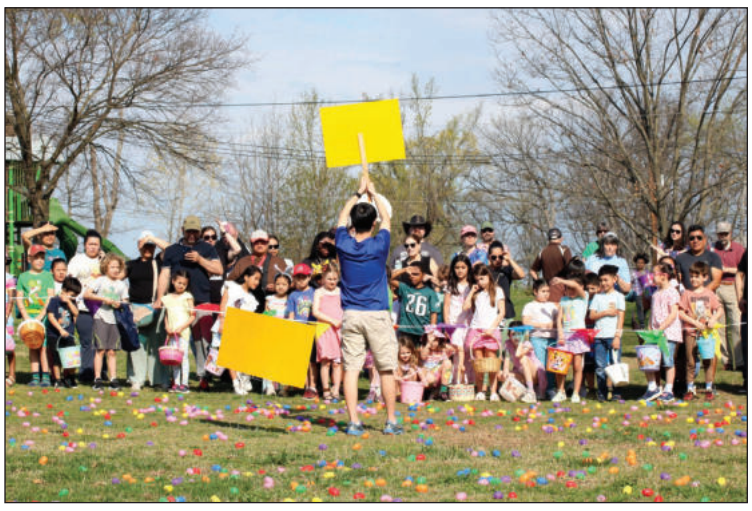
Egg Hunt at Buddy Attick

On Saturday, April 4, the City of Greenbelt held its annual egg hunt at Buddy Attick Park. Among those in attendance was the Easter Bunny (see page 1)!



Parents and children await the start of the egg hunt.

- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt

Participants look on as Greg May shows off his juggling skills.

Underwater Egg Hunts

On Friday, April 3, Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center hosted a series of egg hunts in the pool. The first was for children as young as 6 months, with caregivers, in the shallow area of the pool and the final for older children, who gathered eggs in the deeper section.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Some of the youngest at the pool enjoy the eggs.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Children enjoying the egg hunt include Dylan, age 2.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Children jump into the pool and collect eggs in buckets.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt Makerspace to Hold Monthly Repair Cafe Events

by Aditya N. Sharma

The Greenbelt Makerspace has announced a new schedule for its popular Repair Cafes: they will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month, with the first events planned for April 18, May 16 and June 20, coinciding with their regular tool library open hours on those days. At these community service events, Makerspace tools, resources and volunteers will be available to help fix household items at no cost. All are invited to bring personal items that need repair, including small appliances, bicycles, jewelry and clothing.

Until now, the Makerspace had held Repair Cafes every three months, one week before Greenbelt's quarterly electronics recycling pickup, offering community members a chance to fix items before disposing of them. This move to monthly events is a response to popular demand. Past Repair Cafes were several hours long, typically supported by 15 to 25 volunteers and drawing 30 to 50 attendees. Meeting last month, Makerspace volunteers decided to try out shorter but more frequent events, hoping it would make the events more accessible to the public, easier to prepare for and less strenuous for the volunteers.

The Makerspace (officially, the Greenbelt Makerspace Cooperative, Inc.) is a nonprofit, community-owned cooperative, run by a group of about 60 volunteers and located in the Granite Building (115 Centerway, Suite 108), open Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Membership is open to all adults – not only Greenbelt residents – with annual membership fees suggested based on income, starting at $20. In addition to the Repair Cafe sessions, which are open to all free of charge, it offers a tool-lending library and a members' workshop area, where members can work on personal projects during open hours.

The tool-lending library is currently the Makerspace's primary function. During open hours, the Makerspace is often buzzing with activity, and volunteers assisting members who have stopped in to borrow or return all manner of tools. The catalog of over 800 items includes the kind of tools one might expect in a well-stocked workshop – drills, wrenches, saws – as well as garden tools, kitchen appliances, sewing machines and other miscellaneous tools. In the future, the Makerspace aims to also offer instructional classes on various topics related to DIY projects.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is a member of the Repair Cafe International Foundation, which was founded in the Netherlands in 2009. When the Makerspace started holding Repair Cafes in 2014, they were the first such events in the Mid-Atlantic region (see News Review, January 9, 2014). Although the concept has grown in popularity since then, with around 400 locations in the United States, Greenbelt is still one of only three in Maryland. In addition to promoting repair rather than disposal, the Repair Cafes encourage people to repair items themselves, with support from Makerspace volunteers and resources. One of the main goals is for attendees to experience the accomplishment of repairing and building things themselves. More information about the Greenbelt Makerspace and Tool Library, including the tool catalog and event schedule, is available at greenbeltmakers.org.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

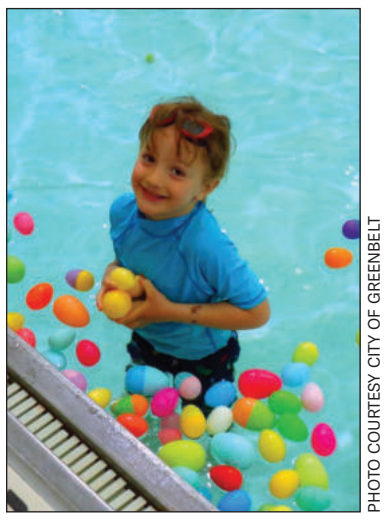


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Charles Kendall and Robert Candey try to resuscitate a blender during a previous Repair Cafe.

Ed Fallon (left) and Dan Baker repair a chair at a past Repair Cafe sponsored by Greenbelt Makerspace.

- Photos by Janice Wolf

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